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Transmitted via E-Mail

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-59

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – 2006 PROGRAM

Purpose. To update and facilitate Local Work Group process.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

Minnesota Bulletins 300-5-48 and 300-5-51 initiated the 2006 EQIP Local Work Group (LWG) process. Across the state, many organizations and individuals have expressed interest in participating in their LWGs. To facilitate participation, Minnesota will post the schedule for all local listening sessions and LWG meetings on the Minnesota NRCS web site. Remember that while the LWG membership is restricted to government representatives, public input is still allowed and desired.

As soon as you and your SWCD have set dates for your listening session and LWG meeting, email the time, location, and date of those meetings to Susan Ploetz, susan.ploetz@mn.usda.gov to be posted to the web site and send a copy to your ASTC (FO).

The implementation of the new EQIP national ranking tool has been delayed until FY 2007. Offices can anticipate that we will use the same basic scoring and priority system that was used in FY-05. A template LWG priority sheet and template scoring sheet for 2006 will be provided to offices later this fall.

2006 EQIP Groundwork Action Items:

- 1. Inform Susan Ploetz and your ASTC (FO) of your listening session and LWG meeting dates, location and time.**
- 2. Conduct local listening sessions in August and September 2005.** Field offices coordinate with SWCD to gather local input on resource concerns and priorities.
- 3. Hold LWG meetings. The goal is to have LWG meetings completed by October 7, 2005.** Again, coordinate with your SWCD. Have local input or listening sessions prior to, or in conjunction with the LWG meetings. Determine, prioritize, and record the local resource concerns that EQIP will address.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC (FO) or from the area level to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
DC
ARC
Susan Ploez
EQIP State Office Team